

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The God Who Raises the Dead

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 1:1–11

Theme: If you would be comforted, rely on the God who raises the dead.

Introduction: Everyone has, at some time or other, experienced unreliability, from tools and cars to friendships and co-workers. When real affliction comes, the real challenge is knowing what, or who, we can rely on. Hardship is inevitable, and it is God who has the answer to life's greatest afflictions. He is the God who raises the dead, and he therefore has the answer to death itself.

Second Corinthians 1:1–11 can be taken in three points:

1. Equipped for Affliction (1–2)

- The Christian needs to be equipped, and the Lord has equipped us.
- Paul mentions his apostleship and being sent "by the will of God" as reasons why the church should listen to him.
- Every Christian is rich in relationship, since our relationships extend beyond who we know right now. There is a cloud of witnesses that has gone before us.
- Christians are equipped with grace and peace.
 - Grace is salvation from God; peace is the resulting friendship with God.

2. Comfort in Affliction (3–7)

- Rather than giving thanks to God for the church as he usually does, Paul goes right to giving thanks to God for comfort in Christ.
- Paul greets the Corinthians in this way to remind them of the reassurance that God has brought them.
- The comfort of Christ is comprehensive; though our afflictions are not often instantly removed, God's comfort is a guarantee for the believer.
- When we charge God with wrongdoing, we are being prideful and missing out on the comforts God provides to his people.
- The cross is the culmination of Christ's sufferings, and the resurrection is the culmination of his triumph, both of which we share in (see v. 5).

3. Deliverance from Affliction (8–11)

- Even though our sufferings are real and we need comfort, we should make the good realization that our afflictions are not on the level of Jesus's or Paul's.
- We can know the comfort of the Lord in his resurrection in our current affliction.
- God wants us to learn to rely on him (v. 9).

Questions:

1. According to verses 1–2, Christians are equipped with relationships, grace, and peace. Which of these three gives you the most encouragement as you face afflictions?
2. How might your pride be keeping you from receiving God's comfort during afflictions?
3. How can you rely on God and the resurrected Christ in a current affliction?